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DARK REIGN™

WOLVERINE ORIGINS

WAY
BRAITHWAITE
REINHOLD
TROY

WEAPON XI BEGINS HERE!

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WOLVERINE
ORIGINS

The mutant Wolverine has spent a century fighting those who would manipulate him for his unique powers—razor-sharp claws, heightened senses, and a healing factor capable of miracles. After repeated brainwashing, torture, and reprogramming, Wolverine's past was as much a mystery to him as to anyone. With those long-lost memories returned to him, Wolverine has set out on a mission to punish the conspirators who have wronged him.

Wolverine has finally found his long-lost son, Daken. Just like his father, Daken is vicious, ruthless and virtually unstoppable. Until very recently, Daken wrongfully blamed Logan for the death of his birth-mother but thanks to Logan's efforts this is no longer the case. Daken's misunderstanding of those past events is directly due to the influence of a dark and mysterious figure known only as Romulus, the same man who has secretly been controlling Logan for most of his life.

Daken and Logan set off to find Romulus and exact their revenge—but Daken betrayed his father and has taken on the role of "Wolverine" on Norman Osborn's U.S. government-sponsored Avengers team. Now it's up to Logan to stop him…and Nick Fury's gonna help him do it.

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YOUR SON.

DAKEN.

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?

NO.

I DO.

"OR, AT LEAST, I KNEW WHERE HE WAS *7 HOURS AGO*-- HE WAS IN *NEW YORK.*

"WEARIN' *YOUR COSTUME.*

"PLAYIN' *'WOLVERINE'* FOR *NORMAN OSBORN.*"

GUESS THAT MEANS I CAN FINALLY TAKE THAT *VACATION.*

NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE IF YOU *DO* BUT BEFORE YOU PACK YOUR SANDALS, I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT HIM.

'CAUSE THAT KINDA INFORMATION MIGHT COME IN *HANDY.* IN THE *FUTURE.*

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT MY SON?

BECAUSE IF YOU *DO*...

...I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW ABOUT *THE WEAPON X PROGRAM.*

I ALREADY *KNOW* ABOUT WEAPON X-- I WAS *THERE. I* WAS *IT.* AN' IF THERE'S ANYTHING ABOUT IT I *DON'T* KNOW...

...THEN IT'S PROBABLY SOMETHIN' I DON'T *WANNA* KNOW.

TRY AGAIN, FURY.

OKAY.

HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW ABOUT *ROMULUS?*

SO IT WAS YOU THAT CYBER TALKED TO...

YEAH.

"THAT WAS ME.

"AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE WAS TRYING TO RUN A GAME ON ME BUT, THE THING IS, A LOT OF WHAT HE TOLD ME ACTUALLY *PANNED OUT.*

"WE ALWAYS WONDERED WHO THE HELL *COMMISSIONED* THE WEAPON X PROJECT BECAUSE, CONTRARY TO WHAT'S IN THE OFFICIAL DOSSIER, IT SURE AS HELL WASN'T *US...*"

...AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DIDN'T EVEN *KNOW* ABOUT IT UNTIL WE ACCUSED THEM OF *DEVELOPING BIO-WEAPONS BEHIND OUR BACKS.*

BUT I *WORKED* FOR THE CANADIAN MILITARY! I *REMEMBER--!*

"OF COURSE YOU DID. AN' YOU WORKED FOR *US, TOO*--THAT WAS THE *DEAL* WE MADE. WE WOULDN'T BLOW THE WHISTLE ON THEM TO THE *INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY...*

"...AS LONG AS *WE* GOT TO USE YOU, *TOO.*"

NOBODY KNEW EXACTLY *WHY* YOU WERE MADE, WOLVERINE...

"...BUT *EVERYBODY* KNEW WHAT YOU WERE MADE *FOR.*"

AT LEAST, WE *THOUGHT* WE DID.

BUT WE WEREN'T THINKING *BIG* ENOUGH.

THE NAME "*HUDSON*" MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

THAT *NAME* AGAIN...

AFTER *SABRETOOTH*...

...KILLED SILVER FOX...

I'M FAMILIAR WITH IT.

AN' AFTER I DID WHAT I DID...

...I ENDED UP DOIN' WORK FOR THE *HUDSON BAY COMPANY*, "*PROTECTIN*" THE COMPANY'S INTERESTS FROM THE LOCALS.

SOON AFTER THAT, I ENDED UP AT THE *TRAININ' FACILITY* THAT *CYBER* WAS WORKIN' FOR--HE TOLD ME IN AMSTERDAM THAT A GUY NAMED *HUDSON* WAS THE ONE *RUNNIN'* THE PLACE.

THEN THERE WAS *JAMES HUDSON--"MAC."* HE AN' HIS WIFE FOUND ME OUT IN THE WOODS, RIGHT AFTER I'D ESCAPED FROM *WEAPON X*...

...AN' IT WAS *MAC* WHO BROUGHT ME INTO *ALPHA FLIGHT.*

ONE O' MY FIRST *MISSIONS* FOR ALPHA FLIGHT WAS TO TAKE DOWN THE *HULK,* WHICH LED ME TO...

AT EVERY *WRONG TURN* IN MY LIFE, IN EVERY *DARK CORNER*, THERE'S SOMEBODY NAMED *HUDSON*. WHAT DOES IT ALL--?

CYBER TOLD ME ABOUT A *TRAINING FACILITY* IN *WESTERN CANADA*--HE SAID HE WORKED THERE AS A *TRAINER*.

SAID THAT'S WHERE HE FIRST MET *YOU*.

THAT'S RIGHT...

AND HE SAID THAT THE MAN IN *CHARGE* WAS NAMED *HUDSON*.

SAME THING HE TOLD *ME*.

YOU KNOW ANYTHING *ELSE* ABOUT THIS "*HUDSON*" GUY?

NOPE.

I DO.

HIS NAME WAS *FREDERICK* HUDSON.

HIS BROTHER WAS *ELIAS* HUDSON, OWNER OF *THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY*.

WHICH YOU WORKED FOR.

"FREDERICK AND ELIAS WERE THE LAST OF THEIR FAMILY LINE AFTER THEIR PARENTS DIED ABOARD A *PASSENGER SHIP* THAT SANK OFF THE COAST OF *VANCOUVER ISLAND*.

"THEIR *SISTER* HAD DIED AROUND *THE TURN OF THE CENTURY*."

"HER NAME WAS *ELIZABETH* HUDSON.

"SHE WAS YOUR *MOTHER.*"

WHAT... *ELSE* DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER?

THAT'S IT--HER *NAME.*

AND IT TOOK *YEARS* FOR ME TO FIND OUT THAT MUCH.

BUT WHAT I *DO* KNOW IS THAT TRAGEDY SEEMS TO FOLLOW THE HUDSON FAMILY LIKE A *SHADOW.*

AND I BELIEVE THAT SHADOW HAS A *NAME.*

ROMULUS.

"ELIAS HUDSON COMMITTED SUICIDE IN HIS OFFICE SHORTLY AFTER YOU LEFT THE COMPANY.

"THERE WERE NO WITNESSES.

"*FREDERICK* DIED WHEN THE TRAINING FACILITY HE WAS OVERSEEING BURNED TO THE GROUND FOR *UNKNOWN REASONS.*"

THAT WOULD'VE BEEN THE END OF THE HUDSONS, SINCE NEITHER OF THE BROTHERS HAD ANY CHILDREN...

"...OR, AT LEAST, NONE BY THEIR *WIVES.*

"TURNS OUT, FREDERICK HAD FATHERED AN ILLEGITIMATE SON BY HIS *SECRETARY*, A YOUNG LADY NAMED *CAITLYN MACDONALD.*

"SHE NAMED HER BOY AFTER FREDERICK..."

EXPLAIN *THIS* TO YOUR WIFE, YOU *BASTARD.*

"...AS WELL AS GIVING THE CHILD HIS FATHER'S *LAST NAME.*

"CAITLYN MACDONALD WAS FOUND HANGING OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL WINDOW BY HER BEDSHEETS TWO DAYS AFTER GIVING BIRTH."

FREDERICK HUDSON II WAS RAISED IN AN ORPHANAGE. ULTIMATELY, HE WOULD DIE FROM A STAB WOUND RECEIVED IN A BAR FIGHT AROUND THE AGE OF 30...

...BUT, BEFORE HIS UNTIMELY END, HE DID HIS BEST TO MAKE SURE THE HUDSON FAMILY NAME SURVIVED-- HE FATHERED THREE SONS BY THREE DIFFERENT WOMEN.

THE FIRST WAS TRUETT HUDSON...

"...WHO GREW UP TO BE A PROFESSOR.

"I BELIEVE YOU MET HIM."

"SECOND WAS *VICTOR* HUDSON, BORN BLIND AND MUTE.

"VICTOR WAS RAISED IN SOLITUDE BY HIS MOTHER, *BERNICE.*

"ONE DAY, BERNICE WALKED INTO HER LOCAL CHURCH PROCLAIMING THAT SHE HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO THE DEVIL'S CHILD AND THAT, THE *PREVIOUS NIGHT...*

"...THE DEVIL HAD NOT ONLY *REVEALED* HIMSELF TO HER, BUT HAD *TAKEN THE CHILD BACK INTO HIS BOSOM.*

"THEN SHE BLEW HER BRAINS OUT ALL OVER THE CONGREGATION."

NO ONE EVER SAW VICTOR HUDSON AGAIN.

LAST IN LINE WAS YOUR PAL JAMES HUDSON, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT H--

I KNOW WHO JAMES IS.

WAS, YOU MEAN. HE'S DEAD.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE POINT:

I BELIEVE THE HUDSONS HAVE BEEN THE PAWNS OF ROMULUS FOR OVER A CENTURY--HE USES THEM LIKE PUPPETS SO THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE TO EXPOSE HIMSELF. BUT AS SOON AS ONE OF THEM SERVES HIS OR HER PURPOSE, THEY'RE TAKEN OFF THE BOARD.

YOU'RE A HUDSON. SO IS YOUR SON. AND YOU'RE BOTH STILL ALIVE, WHICH I THINK MEANS...

ROMULUS STILL HAS PLANS FOR US.

AND I BELIEVE THAT PLAN IS WEAPON X.

WEAPON X IS A THING OF THE PAST, FURY... ANYTHING THAT CAME AFTERWARD--

"WAS AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO CREATE THE NEXT-GENERATION WOLVERINE.

"AND THE REASON IS SIMPLE: WEAPON X DIDN'T CREATE YOU...

"...ROMULUS DID."

SO WEAPON X WAS JUST...AN ATTEMPT TO *CONTROL* ME?

MAYBE THAT WAS A *SECONDARY* GOAL, BUT I THINK THE *PRIMARY GOAL OF THE WEAPON X PROJECT* WAS TO *UPGRADE* YOU... *TO BRING YOU UP TO SPEED. TO OUTFIT YOU FOR THE AGE OF THE SUPER-POWERS.*

"A WEAPON MADE OF FLESH AND BONE WASN'T ENOUGH, ANYMORE-- YOU HAD TO BE MADE *STRONGER.*

"UNBREAKABLE.

"YOU WERE BORN TO KILL, LOGAN...

"...WEAPON X MADE YOU CAPABLE OF KILLING *SUPER HEROES."*

AND YOU THINK... *THAT'S* WHAT ROMULUS WANTS?

BUT HE DIDN'T GET IT. AT LEAST, *NOT FROM YOU.*

"WHEN CHARLES XAVIER BROUGHT YOU INTO THE *X-MEN*, YOU CAME UNDER HIS *PSYCHIC PROTECTION*-- ROMULUS COULDN'T GET INTO YOUR HEAD ANYMORE.

"THAT MAY HAVE SLOWED HIM DOWN, BUT IT DIDN'T *STOP* HIM--I DON'T THINK ANYTHING SHORT OF DEATH *WOULD*."

FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, ROMULUS HAS BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY REFINING AND REVISING HIS *PERFECT KILLING MACHINE.*

YOU.

WHEN YOU BECAME *UNTOUCHABLE*, I THINK HE SIMPLY *SWITCHED TRACKS.*

"*DAKEN IS THE NEXT-GENERATION WOLVERINE BY BIRTH*, BUT THAT'S NOT *ENOUGH* FOR ROMULUS.

"*I THINK HE INTENDS TO MAKE HIM THE NEXT-GENERATION WEAPON X, AS WELL.*"

YOU ARE A WEAPON CREATED TO KILL SUPER HEROES. LOGICALLY, THE *NEXT STEP IS* TO CREATE A WEAPON THAT CAN KILL *YOU--BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...*

...OR *IS* IT?

"A WHILE BACK, I CAME ACROSS A RECORDING OF A *TELECONFERENCE* BETWEEN *THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES* AND *KENUICHIO HARADA--THE SILVER SAMURAI.*

"HE'S TELLING THE PRESIDENT ABOUT A *SWORD...*"

SCOTT...?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SWORD.

THE MURAMASA BLADE. YES.

AND?

WHAT'S THAT HAVE TO DO WITH DAKEN OR WEAPON X?

I THINK, TOGETHER, THEY ARE WEAPON X--THE NEXT GENERATION OF WEAPON X.

AND I THINK ROMULUS IS TRYING TO MAKE SURE THEY COME TOGETHER.

WHAT--?!

YOUR CLAWS, BASIC AS THEY ARE, ARE INCREDIBLE TACTICAL WEAPONS-- YOU CAN'T BE DISARMED. WHEN THEY WERE ENCASED IN ADAMANTIUM, THEY BECAME EVEN BETTER. THEY MADE YOU CAPABLE OF TAKING DOWN THE HARD TARGETS.

YOUR SON HAS CLAWS, TOO. IF THEY WERE TO BE ENCASED IN THE METAL THE BLADE IS MADE OF, DAKEN WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE DOWN THE HARDEST OF TARGETS...

...YOU.

BUT...HE WOULDN'T KNOW HOW...

THE TINKERER WOULD...AND HE'S BEEN SPOTTED IN NEW YORK.

YESTERDAY.

HE'S GOING AFTER THE SWORD, LOGAN.

"SO WHERE IS IT?"

I'VE TOLD YOU--THAT'S NOT WOLVERINE ON OSBORN'S TEAM!

NO, IT'S SOMEONE WORSE...HIS SON.

THEN LET WOLVERINE DEAL WITH HIM!

THAT'S NOT MY STYLE, EMMA.

NOT ANYMORE.

WE MAY KNOW THAT--

--ISN'T THE REAL WOLVERINE, BUT NO ONE ELSE DOES. TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, HE'S ONE OF US--AN X-MAN. EVERYTHING HE DOES REFLECTS UPON US.

BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO! WE CAN'T ASSUME--!

YOU'VE BEEN IN DAKEN'S HEAD, EMMA...

...WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S GOING TO DO?

IF YOU KILL HIS SON, WOLVERINE WILL KILL YOU.

NOTHING WILL STOP HIM.

THIS WILL.

"I NEED TO GET TO SAN FRANCISCO. NOW."

"I'LL DRIVE."

THIS IS THE BEST YOU COULD DO?

YUP.

BIP-BIP!

VZZT! K-KLAK! KLANK! SSSSST--!

PROTOTYPE.

THE BEAN COUNTERS AT S.H.I.E.L.D. DEEMED IT TOO EXPENSIVE FOR PRODUCTION, SO THEY WAREHOUSED IT.

I STOLE IT.

AFTER THE WAY THEY'VE TREATED YOU, I DON'T BLAME YOU ONE BIT.

I STOLE IT SEVEN YEARS AGO.

WHHRRROOOMMM

HANK!
PATCH ME THROUGH TO SCOTT!
I CAN'T DO THAT, LOGAN...
WHATTA YA MEAN, 'YA CAN'T'?!
HE'S RADIO SILENT UNTIL HE LANDS--HE DOESN'T WANT ANY-ONE TRIANGULATING HIS POSITION.
HE DEPLOYED?! WHERE'S HE GOIN'?
LOGAN, THIS IS EMMA: SCOTT HAS TAKEN A TEAM TO NEW YORK TO CONFRONT YOUR SON.
HE SAID HE'S ONLY GOING TO WARN HIM, BUT...
...HE HAS THE MURAMASA BLADE WITH HIM.
@#$#!
NEW YORK.
WHHRRROOOMMM
EMMA, YOU GOTTA GET A MESSAGE TO SCOTT-- TELL HIM TO STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM DAKEN!
LOGAN, I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WANT TO PROTECT YOUR SON, BUT--
IT'S A TRAP, EMMA!

"HE'S FLUSHING HIM OUT!

"DAKEN WANTS THE BLADE OUT IN THE OPEN SO HE CAN TAKE IT!"

TO BE CONTINUED...